

Capsule Summary
SM-856
Hill's General Store
Helen
Private

circa 1920

Taking advantage of a strategic crossroads, Hill's General Store is a reminder of how crossroads communities flourished in St. Mary's County in the early twentieth century. Erected circa 1920, the store building features multiple bays on the east elevation probably to segregate the various services the building held over the years. Many crossroads stores not only provided badly needed merchandise to its rural neighbors, but also served as a local post office, bar, and gas station. Further research needs to be undertaken to determine how the building functioned and to understand how long the Hill family has operated the enterprise.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-856

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic **Hill's General Store**

other

2. Location

street and number 29933 Point Lookout Road _____ not for publication

city, town Helen _____ vicinity

county St. Mary's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James D. and Elizabeth L. Hill

street and number	29933 Point Lookout Road	telephone	N/a
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city, town	Helen	state	Md	zip code	20635
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	St. Mary's County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	TM-18, P-4
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city, town	Leonardtwn	liber	MRB 535	folio 219
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

[illegible]

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-856

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Hills General Store is located on the west side of the intersection of Point Lookout and Helen Chaptico Road in Helen, Maryland. The building is oriented on an east/west axis with the primary elevation facing the road. A small parking lot lies immediately in front of the building. The parcel, consisting of 1.11 acres is largely flat with mature trees standing to the west and a series of horseshoe pits lying to the north. The property is bounded by a residential lot to the south, Point Lookout Road to the east, the Helen War Memorial to the north, and an open parcel to the west.

Hill's General Store is a two story, frame building with a gable roof probably constructed circa 1920. The exterior walls are sheathed with artificial siding while the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The roof is pierced by a brick interior chimney.

The primary or east elevation is dominated on the first floor by a porch that runs most of the building's length. It shades two doors and one one-over-one, double-hung sash window. To the south of the porch are two sets of paired windows and a door. During the time of the visit, louvered shutters covered each window. The north end of the porch has been enclosed and is pierced on the east side by a paired set of one-over-one windows. The second floor of the building contains six one-over-one windows. Signs all over this side of building advertise sales on various brands of beer. Another sign over the main entrance reads "Hill's 7 Day Service: Meats General Merchandise, Groceries."

No other elevations were investigated.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-856

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Taking advantage of a strategic crossroads, Hill's General Store is a reminder of how crossroads communities flourished in St. Mary's County in the early twentieth century. Erected circa 1920, the store building features multiple bays on the east elevation probably to segregate the various services the building held over the years. Many crossroads stores not only provided badly needed merchandise to its rural neighbors, but also served as a local post office, bar, and gas station. Further research needs to be undertaken to determine how the building functioned and to understand how long the Hill family has operated the enterprise.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-856

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>1.11 acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>same</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Mechanicsville</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24 000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by a residential lot to the south, Point Lookout Road to the east, the Helen War Memorial to the north, and an open parcel to the west. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber MRB 535, Folio 219.

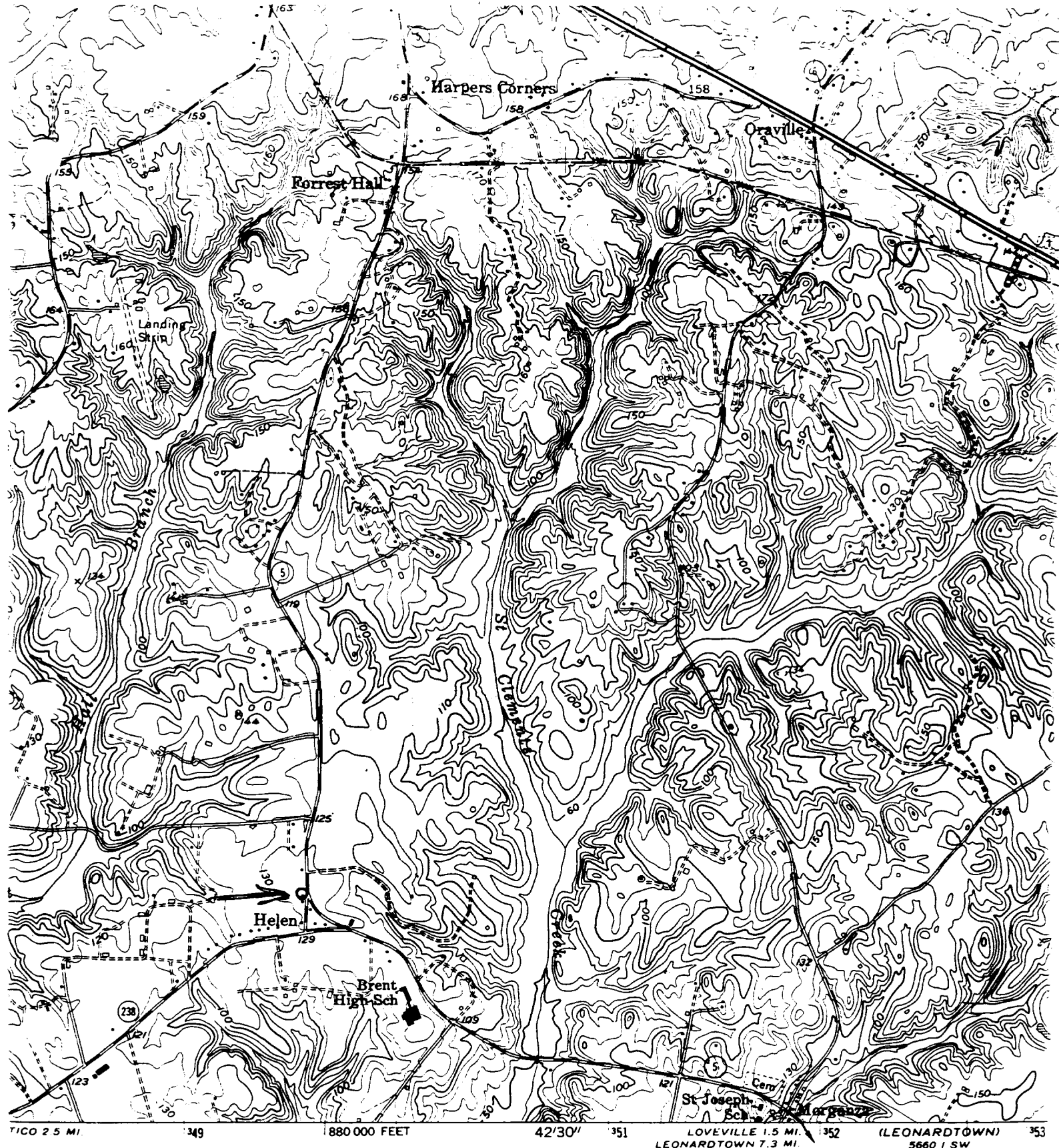
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



red by the Geological Survey

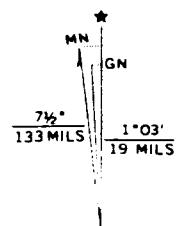
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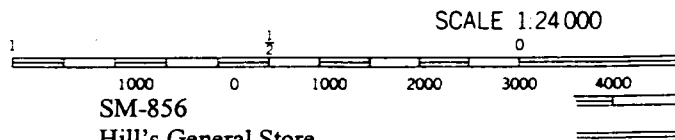
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UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



SM-856
Hill's General Store
Helen
St. Mary's County
Mechanicsville Quad

SCALE 1:24 000

10 FEET
- DATUM C
- DATUM IS
- MATH LINE OF

THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 1.5 FEET



SP-206

Bill's Gravel Store

St. Mary's County

Kick Banzetta

Sept/00

4d SHPO

Looking W

1 of 1